SUBJECT No. 113.

Reduction in the minimum area prescribed for coffee cultivation and of the *upset price* on coffee lands.

(1) Mr. V. Manjaiya, South Mysore Native Planters' Association.
(1) & (2) Messrs. T. Guru Rao, North Mysore Planters' Association; B. Sitaramaiya and C. Srinivasa Rao, Chikmagalur Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—(1) The prescribed minimum of 15 acres for coffee cultivation acts as a great hardship. Pattas cannot be obtained for smaller extents of land and the lands are sometimes subject to be sold for arrears due by others. The minimum may therefore be fixed at 5 acres.

(2) The upset price on coffee lands may be reduced from Rs. 10 to Rs. 5 an acre.

Mr. Guru Rao presented a memorial to the effect that the present condition of the coffee industry required such a relief and that Government should also take steps to encourage Native Planters to go in for rubber cultivation, and seeds, etc., should be distributed for the purpose.

Mr. Srinivasa Rao: The minimum had once been reduced to 5 acres but in the same year it was again raised ostensibly on the ground that the existence of these small bits of coffee estates between large estates would encourage theft of coffee. Many an agriculturist in the Kadur District cultivates coffee as a by-product by which he is able to pay his kandayam. By being required to take up 15 acres, he has to pay an upset price of at least Rs. 150 and spend another Rs. 150 before the coffee begins to yield. Instead of preventing coffee thefts the present restriction encourages thefts by depriving the agriculturists of employment.

Reply of Government.—Will be considered. The matter may be brought up before the Dewan when he next visits the locality.

SUBJECT No. 114.

Stone bandhs in place of mud ones.

Mr. C. Nagappa, Nagar Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Earthen bandhs are liable to be washed away by the rains, especially in malnad where the rainfall is very heavy, and the burden of repairing them annually falls upon the raiyats. Owing to the paucity of population in the malnad, even the cultivation work is being carried on by coolies from the British Territories. Such being the case, it is very burdensome for land-holders to get the bandhs repaired every year. It is therefore requested that during the revision survey the earthen bandhs may be replaced by stones and the cost recovered from the raiyats.

Reply of Government.—Cannot be allowed as a general rule, as *pahani* stones are more easily removed than earthen bandhs.

SUBJECT No. 115.

Grant of lands containing small number of date trees.

Mr Kencharaya Setti, Arsikere Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Portions containing date trees unfit for tapping are also included in the date reserve list and are not given out for cultivation. There is no income to the Excise Department from these trees. Such lands may therefore be given out for cultivation.

Lands containing a small number of date trees to be given for cultivation.
Messrs. Bade Sab and Bade Gowda, Sira Taluk, and Paledahalli Nagappa, Hosdurga Taluk.

(2) Portions containing a small number of trees may be subdivided and given out for cultivation. If a large number of trees are standing only on a portion of the land, the whole survey number is now reserved.

Formerly Amildars had discretion to accept or reject darkhasts for lands containing date trees. Now lists showing numbers containing date trees have been got up and darkhasts for lands included in them are summarily rejected. It is not certain if great discrimination is used in selecting such reserved lands. It is therefore suggested that lands containing trees numbering 500 and upwards may alone be reserved as date groves, thus making available for cultivation a larger number of lands.

Reply of Government.—These lists are being revised at the time of the revision settlement, and authoritative lists are also being drawn up throughout the State. Every facility will be given for obtaining such lands for cultivation if they are really not required to be reserved. The remarks of the Survey Commissioner regarding the necessity for greater liberality on the part of the Excise Department in the grant of such land will be sent to the Revenue and Excise Commissioners for necessary action.

SUBJECT No. 116.

Disposal of darkhasts after the hulbanni sales.

Mr. Srinivasa Deekshit, Shikarpur Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Applications are sometimes received for waste lands which have been included in the hulbanni sales. In some cases saguvali chits are issued and in others the applicant is put in possession of the land applied for, only after the pasture has been fully utilized by the purchaser at the hulbanni sales. This means that the applicant does not get the land in time, and consequently it is brought under cultivation only next year. This causes hardship to the applicant and loss to the Government. In such cases proportionate reduction may be made from the hulbanni amount to protect the interests of the hulbanni purchaser, and the land made over at once to the applicant for cultivation.

There is often great delay in the disposal of darkhasts and lands are delivered so late that no crops can be raised although full assessment is levied.

Reply of Government.—The extent applied for will be so small and the proportionate charge for hulbanni so light that there can be no real hardship in the existing practice. If the land is delivered late, the Deputy Commissioner has discretion to remit the assessment of the year under Rule 43 of the Land Revenue Rules.